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Message Text

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65
ACTION SS-25

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---------- 072440
P 0116330Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2269

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652; GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV
SUBJECT: SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS AND GUINEAN SECURITY WORRIES

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1538, (B) CONAKRY 1706, (C) STATE 203877

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SEKOU TOURE IS FEARFUL OF FOREIGN ATTACK. SOME US RESPONSE TO GUINEAN REQUEST FOR QUOTE AMERICAN SECURITY GUARANTEE UNQUOTE APPEARS NECESSARY TO RETAIN EMBARGO ON SOVIET SURVEILLANCE OF US ATLANTIC FLEET FROM CONAKRY. RECOMMEND AFRICA BUREAU OFFICIAL DISCUSS GUINEA IN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN CAPITALS CONCERNED AND THEN MEET WITH SEKOU TOURE. END SUMMARY.

2. IT WAS EVIDENT DURING MY MEETING 21 AUGUST WITH MININTERIOR MOUSSA DIAKITE AND MINDEFENSE KOUROUMA (REFTELB) THAT SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT TOURE (REFTEL C) HAD PLEASED THEM.

3. DIAKITE WAS GRATEFUL FOR ADDITIONAL RICE ALLOCATION AND CONFIRMED CESSATION OF SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1. HE REMINDED ME, HOWEVER, THAT THESE DEPLOYMENTS HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO PROTECT GUINEA FROM ATTACK, AND RECALLED GOG REQUEST FOR A QUOTE SECURITY GUARANTEE UNQUOTE FROM USG. HE HOPED GUINEA COULD HAVE A CONSIDERED AMERICAN ANSWER BY EARLY SEPTEMBER; HE IMPLIED THAT THE FUTURE OF SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS MIGHT BE CONDITIONAL UPON THE US ANSWER.
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4. I NOTED THAT SECRETARY'S LETTER STATED THAT US SUPPORTS PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN GUINEA AND HER NEIGHBORS AND THAT US WAS STUDYING THE POINTS RAISED IN OUR EARLIER MEETING. DIAKITE SAID WITH A SMILE THAT QUOTE STUDY UNQUOTE BY GOVERNMENTS HAD VARIETY OF MEANINGS.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF DLOUHY, DIAKITE'S PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SEKOU CAMARA EXPLAINED PROCEDURE WHEREBY SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE DEPLOYMENTS HAD BEEN CLEARED BY GOG ON MONTH BY MONTH BASIS. ON PRESIDENT TOURE'S INSTRUCTIONS, MINDEFENSE RECENTLY TOLD SOVIET MILITARY THAT GOG HAD LEARNED SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS WERE BEING USED NOT ONLY AS AGREED TO WATCH GUINEAN COAST BUT ALSO TO RECONNOITER UNRELATED MILITARY ACTIVITY FAR AWAY. THEREFORE, GOG WOULD AUTHORIZE NO FLIGHTS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1. SOVIET OFFICIALS HAD DEMANDED TO KNOW WHETHER AMEMBASSY WAS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION. MINDEFENSE REPLIED THAT SOURCE WAS IRRELEVANT; POINT WAS THAT GOG BELIEVED IT.

6. CAMARA TOLD DLOUHY THAT SEPTEMBER 1 CUTOFF WAS FIRM COMMITMENT WITH NO QUID PRO QUO ATTACHED. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED AMBIGUOUSLY, SECURITY CONCERNS REMAINED. PRESIDENT TOURE WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT GISCARD, WHOM HE TRUSTS, COULD CONTROL ALL ELEMENTS IN FRANCE. PRESIDENT WAS UNSURE OF FEDREPUBLIC, WHICH PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE IN 1970 INVASION; HE WAS CONVINCED SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET WERE PLOTTING WITH DISSIDENTS. THUS, IF US DID NOT PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT IT HAD PLACED POLITICAL RESTRAINTS UPON ITS ALLIES, AND THROUGH THEM UPON SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, GOG WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ITS DECISION ABOUT SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS.

7. COMMENT: GUINEANS UNDERSTAND LINKAGE OF PL-480 WITH SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS. THEY WANT RICE BADLY, BUT THEIR PARAMOUNT CONCERN IS NOW SECURITY. MOUSSA DIAKITE HAS REPHRASED GOG POSITION SO AS TO PERMIT JUSTIFICATION OF RENEWED SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS ON BASIS LACK OF US RESPONSIVENESS TO GUINEAN SECURITY NEEDS. WHILE GOG CONFIDENTIAL

ANXIETIES SEEM WILDLY EXAGGERATED, SECURITY WORRIES ARE HARDLY SURPRISING WHEN 1 TO 1.5 MILLION BITTER EXILES ARE LIVING IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND IN EUROPE. US HAS NO EARTHLY REASON TO BOLSTER THIS RADICAL, OPPRESSIVE REGIME. HOWEVER, SEKOU TOURE IS A HEALTHY 54. HE WILL PROBABLY BE AROUND A LONG TIME AND WE MUST WORK WITH WHAT EXISTS. US HAS SUCCESSFULLY BEGUN PROCESS

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OF LIMITING SOVIET MILITARY DEPLOYMENT FROM GUINEA.
THROUGH A VERY MODEST POLITICAL INVESTMENT WE HAVE
A GOOD CHANCE OF CONSOLIDATING THIS GAIN.

8.H
ECOMMENDATION. RECOMMEND THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TALCOTT SEELYE OR WEST AFRICAN DIRECTOR THOMAS
SMITH UNDERTAKE BRIEF TRIP TO INCLUDE PARIS (AND PERHAPS
BONN), ABIDJAN, DAKAR AND CONAKRY. US OFFICIAL WOULD
DISCUSS PROBLEMS POSED BY SEKOU TOURE REGIME IN EACH
CAPITAL (IN ADDITION TO WHATEVER OTHER AFRICA-RELATED
BUSINESS HE MIGHT HAVE). I WOULD HOPE HE COULD SEE
RENE JOURNIAC OF ELYSEE (WHERE FRENCH POLICY TOWARD
GUINEA IS EVIDENTLY MADE) MINISTER OF STATE
WISCHNEWSKI IN BONN, AND IF POSSIBLE PRESIDENTS OF
IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL.

9. ALL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LIMITATION OF SOVIET
MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS AND POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER
LIMITING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN GUINEA. ALL WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES OF REDUCING
OFFENSIVE RHETORIC FROM CONAKRY AND OF DEVELOPING
MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION. US OFFICIAL
COULD ASK FOR EVALUATION OF GUINEAN DISSIDENT EXILE
ORGANIZATIONS. ON FINAL STOP IN CONAKRY, US OFFICIAL
WOULD MEET WITH SEKOU TOURE AND TELL HIM OF HIS CONVER-
SATIONS IN THE OTHER CAPITALS.

10. NO US COMMITMENTS WOULD BE MADE AND
CERTAINLY NO GUARANTIES OF ANY GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY.
HOWEVER, THIS SHOW OF AMERICAN SYMPATHY FOR SEKOU TOURE'S
FEARS WOULD BE IMMENSELY GRATIFYING TO HIM AND WOULD
PROVIDE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF GUINEAN NON-
ALIGNMENT.
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11. BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO RESPOND TO GOG
ON SECURITY BEFORE SOVIETS PROPOSE SURVEILLANCE FLIGHT
SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER.
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